CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing context-sensitive help data for a computer system, comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of program components to a user for interaction;

determining, in advance of an interaction, a first program component likely to be referenced by the user;

retrieving from a first memory area having a first access time first help data corresponding to a first of the components, the first component not being interacted with by the user, and storing the first help data in a second memory area having a second access time less than the first access time;

subsequent to the step of storing, determining that the user has interacted with the first component; and

responsive to the determination, retrieving the first help data from the second memory area and displaying the first help data to the user.

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2. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving from the first memory area is performed in a background process.

3. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 1, wherein the second memory area is a cache memory.

4. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 3, wherein the first memory area is accessed over a network.

5. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 3, wherein the cache is one of main memory and secondary storage.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 including

creating a registry that includes a plurality of help data identifiers, one of the help data identifiers corresponding to the first component and another of the help data identifiers corresponding to a second component of the plurality of components;

determining that the second component has been interacted with by the user;

determining that the first and second help data identifiers are both in the registry, and

wherein the step of retrieving the first help data is performed responsive to the determination that the first and second help data identifiers are both in the registry.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method for managing context-sensitive help data for components accessible on computer system, the steps comprising:

creating at least one registry including a help data identifier for each of a plurality of related components;

determining, in advance of an interaction, a first program component likely to be referenced by the user;

determining that an interaction has taken place regarding one of said components and said corresponding help data identifier;

retrieving help data for said one of said help data identifiers from a first memory area having a first access time;

rendering said help for said one of said help data identifiers;

retrieving additional help data for the remaining identifiers in said one registry from said first memory area; and

storing said retrieved help data in a second memory area having a second access time less than said first access time in order to quickly render said additional help data.

8. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 7, wherein the step of said retrieving of said additional help data is performed in a background process.

9. (Original) The method of managing context-sensitive help data of claim 7, wherein said second memory area is a cache.

10. (Original) A method of claim 7, wherein said first memory area is a remote memory area accessible over a network.

11. (Currently Amended) A help presentation data structure embodied in a computer-readable medium, said data structure operating in a computer system used for presenting help data for a computer software application, said data structure ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of caches for storing information about the context-sensitive help data of the computer software application, each cache ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of data structure fields, the computer software application having one or more components, each cache of the help presentation data structure comprising:

a data structure field for storing a component identifier corresponding to currently rendered help data; [[~~and~~]]

a data structure field for storing help data identifiers corresponding to related components likely to be referenced; and

a plurality of data structure fields, each for storing a component help data attribute.

12. (Original) The help presentation data structure of claim 11, wherein said component help data attribute includes a help data identifier and help data.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for managing context-sensitive help data, comprising:

means for determining that at least one computer component is accessible for interaction, wherein a user has not interacted with said component;

determining, in advance of an interaction, a first program component likely to be referenced by the user;

means for retrieving from a first memory area having a first access time help data corresponding to said at least one component, and storing said corresponding help data in a second memory area having a second access time less than said first access time without presenting said help data to the user;

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means for monitoring whether the user interacts with said at least one component; and

means for retrieving said corresponding help data from said second memory area and presenting said corresponding help data to the user when it is determined that said at least one component has been interacted with.

14. (Original) The system for managing context-sensitive help data of claim 13, wherein said means for retrieving from a first memory area is performed in a background process.

15. (Original) The system for managing context-sensitive help data of claim 13, wherein said second memory area is a cache.

16. (Original) The system for managing context-sensitive help data of claim 13, wherein said memory area is a remote memory area accessible over a network.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of managing context-sensitive help data for a computer having a plurality of components for reducing time for presentation of help data corresponding to said components to a user, comprising the steps of:

determining, in advance of an interaction, a first program component likely to be referenced by the user;

referencing a component with a pointing device;

retrieving a help data corresponding to said component from a first memory area having a first access time;

presenting said corresponding help data to a user; and

storing said help data in a second memory area having a second access time less than said first access time for presentation of said corresponding help data upon additional referencing of said component.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first memory area is a remote memory area accessible over a network.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first memory area having a first access time is secondary storage.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said second memory area having said second access time less than said first access time is a cache.

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

The Official Draftsman has objected to the Drawings as being informal. Enclosed herewith is a Letter to the Official Draftsman submitting seven (7) sheets of formal drawings to replace the informal drawings forming part of the application as on file.